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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/673,135	10/11/2000	Georg Burkhardt	077680/0114	9525

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EXAMINER

CHARLES, MARCUS

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3682

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/673,135

Applicant(s)

BURKHARDT ET AL.

Examiner

Marcus Charles

Art Unit

3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2002 and 17 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16-18 and 42-44 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 19-28, 31, 35, 36 and 38-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 29, 30, 32-34 and 37 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the after final amendment and RCE filed 12-16-2002 and 1-17-2003 respectively, which have been entered. Claims 1-44 are currently pending.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. The request filed on 1-17-2003 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 09/673,135 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 9, line 2, "or" should be --and--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 20, 22, 25 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 20, line 3, "the lateral flanks lacks antecedent basis. In claim 22, lines 2 and 3, "the surfaces" and "the lateral flank" lack antecedent basis. In claim 25, it is unclear as to what location is being referred to as "this location". In claim 35, "the assembled state" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-3, 6-11, 14-15, 21, 24-25, 36 and 38, as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones ('019). Jones discloses a pulley body (12), which has a rotationally symmetrical outer circumference, a pulley hub (not labeled), and a tire (13) which sits on the circumferential surface (not labeled), the tire has a radially outer ring section (the outer portion of the tire 13.), and a reinforcement ring (15), a radially inner ring section (16), the reinforcement ring is made from a rigid material relative to the inner and outer ring sections (col. 3, lines 14-24), the diameter of the reinforcing ring is smaller than the outside diameter of the outer ring. Jones also discloses that the body of radially inner ring and outer rings are made from an elastomeric material. In addition, Jones suggested that the body of the radially outer ring may be formed of a harder elastomeric material than that of the inner ring if so desired (col. 3, lines 59-65).

Regarding claims 2-3, the pulley body has two outer flanks between the circumferential surface of the pulley. Note; flange disks (11a and 11b) are bolted (detachable fastened) to the flanks.

In claim 6, note, the outer circumference of the radially outer ring (13) is concentric to the pulley hub in a no load state because there are no compressive load which occurs during operation or loaded state.

In claim 7, note the rope groove (14) in the outer ring (13).

In claims 8-9, note, in figs. 1-2, the reinforcement ring (15) is embedded in the outer ring (13) and between the outer ring and the inner ring (16).

In claims 10-11, Jones suggested that the reinforcement ring maybe formed of any suitable reinforcing material such as an elastomeric material (plastic is a member) and a fabric web (col.3, lines 14-19). In addition, the reinforcing ring may be formed of a metal or metal mesh (sheet metal falls in the category of a metal and metal mesh).

In claims 14-15, note, in figs. 1, the outer ring (13) and the inner ring (16) each have an approximate constant thickness.

In claim 21, the reinforcing ring (15) and the outer ring are positively locked to each other (see fig. 1).

In claim 24, internal damping is an inherent property of an elastomeric material. Therefore, the radially inner ring, which is an elastomeric material, has internal damping.

In claim 25, note the distance between the lateral flanks of the outer ring (13) is equal to the clearance between the flange disks (11a-b) at the location of the outer ring.

In claim 36, note two parts (11a-b) are screwed together via bolt and nut.

Regarding claim 38, note the outer circumferential surface of the pulley body forms a cylindrical surface

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of JP('42635). Jones does not disclose that the corresponding width of outer circumferential surface pulley body corresponds to the width of the radially inner and outer rings and the radially inner and outer rings are approximately the same width. JP('42635) discloses a pulley comprising a radially outer ring (8), a radially inner ring (2) and a pulley body, wherein the body has a width which corresponds to the width of the inner and outer rings are approximately the same width in order to balance the fluctuating and compressive loads on the pulley during operation. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Jones pulley such that the pulley body has a width which corresponds to the width of the outer and inner rings and the outer and inner rings are approximately the same width in view of JP('42635) in order to balance the fluctuating and compressive loads on the pulley during operation.

9. Claim 12, as understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Nakamura et al.('038). Jones does not disclose that the reinforcing ring is formed by forging. It is well known in the art that forging is an obvious method choice for forming or shaping a ring. Nakamura et al. suggested a ring

(3) made from aluminum maybe shaped by cold forging to increase the wear resistance and toughness of the surface. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the reinforcing ring of Jones so that it is made from aluminum and is shaped by forging in view of Nakamura et al. in order to increase the wear resistance and toughness of the surface.

10. Claim 13, as understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of JP('4240). Jones does not disclose a pulley that includes a reinforcing ring, which is made by casting. It is well known in the art that casting is an obvious method choice for make or shaping a ring. JP'4240) discloses a ring (15) made from a metal and is shaped by cold casting in order to minimize manufacturing cost and improve surface toughness. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the reinforcing ring of Jones so that it is shaped by forging in view of JP('4240) in order to minimize manufacturing cost and improve surface toughness.

11. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Colford('176). Jones does not disclose that the inner ring contains textile reinforcement. Colford discloses a coating ring (6), which is made from a plastic material and is reinforced by fibers made from textile in order to reduce wear and tear and to provide uniformly good working properties (col. 2, lines 40-46). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the inner ring of Jones so as to include reinforced textile fibers in view of Colford

in order to reduce wear and tear and to provide uniformly good working properties during operation.

12. Claims 27, 28 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Lengenfelder, Jr. et al.('225). Jones does not disclose a clamping device assigned to the tire. Lengenfelder, Jr. et al. discloses a clamping device (70) which has an annular and substantially symmetrical form with radially inner and outer surfaces, wherein the clamping device is split into two parts (figs. 3 and 5) relative to the axial direction of the pulley body (18) in order to secure the radially outer ring to the pulley body and to ensure proper alignment between the outer ring and the pulley body during assembling. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Jones device so as to include a split clamping device in view of Lengenfelder, Jr. et al. in order to secure the radially outer ring to the pulley body and to ensure proper alignment between the outer ring and the pulley body during assembling.

13. Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones. Jones does not disclose that the reinforcing is reinforced with fiber. It is well known in the art to reinforce elastomeric or plastic material with fiber in order to increase strength and wear resistance. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the reinforcing ring of Jones with fiber, since it is well known in the art that using fiber as a reinforcement agent in plastic increases strength and wear resistance.

14. Claims 40-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

Art Unit: 3682

being unpatentable over Jones in view of EP (194948). Jones discloses the claimed invention but does not disclose that the reinforcing ring has an indented non-uniform cross-section profile. EP(194,948) discloses a reinforcing ring (2) having an indented non-cross-section profile that is thicker at the outer ends than at the middle portion in order to retain the groove of the pulley and to the rope from inadvertent lateral slippage. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the reinforcing ring of Jones to include the limitation of Jones in order to retain the groove of the pulley and to the rope from inadvertent lateral slippage.

Allowable Subject Matter


15. Claims 16-18 and 42-44 are allowed.
16. Claims 29-30, 32-34 and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
17. Claims 19, 20, 22 and 35 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 3682

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marcus Charles whose telephone number is (703) 305-6877. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday 7:30 am-600 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bucci can be reached on (703) 308-3668. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3597 for regular communications and (703) 305-3597 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.


Marcus Charles
Examiner
Art Unit 3682
February 8, 2003